

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/689,537
Response to OA dated December 12, 2007

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action dated **December 12, 2007**. It is believed that it is fully responsive to the Office Action.

Independent Claim 1 is to a portable terminal device of the foldable type including a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism. Each of the cabinets has a front cabinet half segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed and a rear cabinet half segment joined to the front cabinet half segment. The front cabinet half segment is a separate piece from the rear cabinet half segment, one of the pair of cabinets has the front cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and the other cabinet has the rear cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism, such that when the pair of cabinets are closed, with extraneous matter therebetween, no clearance is created in the joint between the front cabinet half segment and rear cabinet half segment of either of the pair of cabinets.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,699) in view of Toyoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,914,982). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The Office Action alleges that Murray et al. teaches a portable terminal device of the foldable type having a pair of flat cabinets openably connected to each other by a hinge mechanism, each of the cabinets having a front cabinet half segment to be opposed to the other cabinet when closed.

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The Office Action further alleges that Toyoda teaches a rear cabinet half segment joined to the front cabinet segment (FIG. 3), the front cabinet half segment being a separate piece from the rear cabinet half segment (FIG. 1), and the pair of cabinets having the front cabinet half segment having an end portion connected to the hinge cover (13/23) and the rear cabinet half segment having an end portion connected to the hinge cover (17/27), wherein both end hinge covers (13/23) and (17/27) are connected to the hinge mechanism (32), as shown in FIG. 1.

The Office Action alleges that "hinge covers" (13), (23), (17) and (27) correspond to the presently claimed "hinge mechanism". It is respectfully submitted that at column 2, lines 51-55 of Toyoda et al., it is disclosed that the hinge covers cover the hinges. The hinge covers do not connect the pair of flat cabinets, as presently claimed. In Toyoda et al. it is the mechanism indicated at (32), which is best viewed in FIG. 1, that connects cabinets of the terminal device. The components indicated at (32) connect upper chassis (15) and lower chassis (25). End portions of the alleged front and rear cabinet halves are not at all connected to hinge component (32).

Claim 1 of the present application clearly defines that a connection of the cabinets is made by the "hinge mechanism", and Toyoda et al. does not disclose that hinge covers (13), (23), (17) and (27) function as a connection of the cabinets.

In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The allowance of Claims 4-7 is acknowledged.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, Claims 1-3, as well as Claims 4-7, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

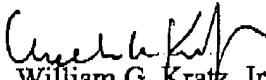
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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